

Remarks

Based on the allowability of claims 1, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 56, and 57 in the Office Action mailed October 16, 2008, the foregoing amendments are believed to place the claims into condition for allowance. Entry and consideration of the amendments are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 56, and 57 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 34 being the independent claims. Claims 2-33, 36-37, 40, 43, 45, 47-51, 53-54, and 58-66 were previously sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 52 and 55 are herewith sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of the canceled subject matter in related applications. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 52 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. 6,001,557 to Wilson *et al.*. While not agreeing with the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claims 52 and 55 purely in the interests of furthering prosecution, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in related applications.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the novelty rejection.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 13, 2009

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